(b) the reasons for such a collossal additional burden over the planned expenditure; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure timely completion of projects within the parameters of planned expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA DEHARESHWAR SAVANOOR): (a) As on 31.03.1997, 133 central sector projects costing Rs. 20 crores and above on the monitor of Department of Programme Implementation were having time overrun and cost overrun of Rs. 30473 crores from their original sanctioned cost.

(b) and (c) The projects face various types of problems resulting in time and cost overruns. The list of various factors resulting in time and cost overrun is given in the enclosed *Statement**. The measures being taken by the Government vary from project to project and time to time. However, the nature of measures taken by the Government in general to avoid shortcomings in the implementation is given in the enclosed *Statement II.*

Statement I

Steps taken by the Government to streamline for preparing the original estimates and implementation of projects for reducing overruns.

(i) Two-stage project approval for facilitating adequate preparation, environmental and other clearances and infrastructure planning at stage I before a project is finally approved for implementation at state II.

(ii) Proper monitoring of projects at regular intervals, at various levels to identify constraints and take remedial measures.

(iii) Indepth review of the progress by the project authorities and Administrative Ministries.

(iv) Setting up of Task Force/ Empowered Committees for speedy finalisation of contract packages, solving land acquisition and other problems.

(v) Close follow up by the concerned administrative Ministries and project authorities with the State Government, equipment suppliers, contractors, consultants and other concerned agencies to mininise delays.

(vi) Inter-ministerial co-ordination.

Supervision of works under MPLAD Scheme

264. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government aware are that the guidelines regarding supervision of works under MPLAD Scheme are only on paper and no proper supervision is being done by official named in the scheme nor any information is being sent to Members of Parliament; and

(b) the steps taken by Government on the implementation of the measures as given in the MPLAD Scheme?

HE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA DEHARESHWAR SAVANOOR): (a) Some MPs have complained against lack of proper supervision of MPLADS work by the concerned officials.

(b) The State Governments have been requested to issue instructions to all concerned agencies on the need for prompt action and execution of works under MPLADS in accordance with the guidelines and also to ensure monitoring, supervision and co-ordination as outlined in these guidelines.

Top ten economically advanced states

265. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased